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ACTION EURE-12

MOSCOW 00614 121245Z

EXCISE



INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 IO-14 ACDA-12 SMS-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 MSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 NEA-06 HA-05 1704 W-17 OF STATE & THE AR

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P 121219Z JAN 80

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6418

INFO ANCONSUL Leningrad

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REVIEWED BY W. L. Chinn DATE 9/18/87

REF ID: A66666

IS AUTH. _____

EXCISE EXEMPTING MARKINGS 8

DECLASSIFIED RELEASE

RELEASE DATED 10/14/88

PA OR FOR EXEMPTION (b)(1)(2)(5)

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 12 JAN 2000 (GARRISON, M.) OR-M

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, UR, AF

SUBJECT: USSR FIRST DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER (MYD)
PAPUTIN -- A SUICIDE?

REFS: (A) Leningrad 80, (B) MOSCOW 94, (C) 79 MOSCOW A-281

1. ~~ENTIRE~~ TEXT)

2. TWO EMBOFFS HAVE HEARD INDEPENDENTLY FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES THAT VIKTOR PAPUTIN (REF B) DIED BY SUICIDE. THE IMPLICATION OF THESE STORIES IS THAT HIS DEATH WAS UNRELATED TO EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN. ONE SOURCE, IN COMMENTING ON PAPUTIN'S DEATH, NOTED THAT ITS TIMING, ON DECEMBER 28, MERELY COINCIDED WITH THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN. SOURCE CLAIMED THAT THE FACT THAT PAPUTIN DIED BY HIS OWN HAND EXPLAINED THE LOWER STATUS THAN WOULD BE EXPECTED NECROLOGY NOTED IN REF (B).

3. SOURCE SAID THAT PAPUTIN'S DEATH WAS THE RESULT OF INTRIGUES WITHIN THE MYD [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PAPUTIN'S SUICIDE WAS THE SECOND WITHIN A YEAR WITHIN THE MYD [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED] IN APRIL 1979, MYD GENERAL MIKHAIL SERGEYEVICH KRYLOV, DIRECTOR OF THE MYD POLICE ACADEMY, ALSO, ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, TOOK HIS OWN LIFE.

[REDACTED]

4. SINCE FILING REF (B) EMBASSY HAS COME ACROSS A SECOND OBITUARY FOR PAPUTIN, IN THE NEWSPAPER "SOVIET SPORT" FOR JANUARY 3. UNLIKE THE PRAVDA OBITUARY, THIS ONE INCLUDES THE EXPECTED PHOTOGRAPH. ALSO UNLIKE THE PRAVDA OBITUARY, THIS ONE GIVES AT LEAST SOME INKLING OF THE POSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING PAPUTIN'S END WHEN IT NOTES THAT IT WAS "AN UNTIMELY DEATH."

5. COMMENT: WHAT WE JUDGE TO BE THE APPARENTLY WIDESPREAD RUMORS AS TO PAPUTIN'S SUICIDE MIGHT IN FACT BE TRUE. A SUICIDE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WOULD HELP EXPLAIN THE LOW-LEVEL OF SIGNATURES ATTACHED TO PAPUTIN'S OBITUARY IN PRAVDA AND THE OTHER DEPARTURES FROM PRECEDENT NOTED IN REF (B). ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RUMORS MAY INDEED BE DESIGNED TO BLUR EVEN FURTHER ANY CONNECTION IN THE PUBLIC MIND BETWEEN PAPUTIN'S DEATH AND HIS POSSIBLE PRESENCE AT THE TIME IN AFGHANISTAN. [REDACTED]

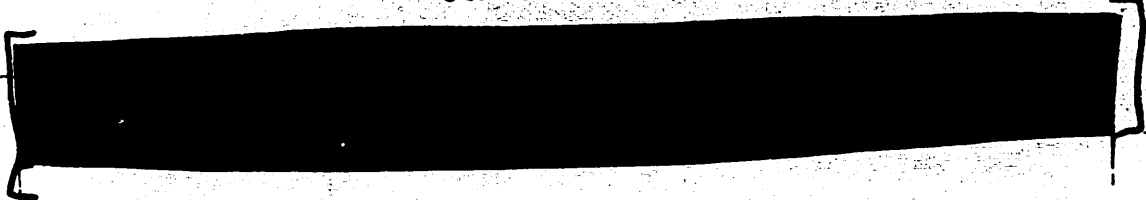
[REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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